



Picris angustifolia subsp. *angustifolia*

Common Name(s):

Native oxtongue

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Indigenous. North Island where known historically from the Bay of Islands, otherwise still present around the Whangaruru Harbour and on the Hen and Chicken Islands. Also in Australia

Habitat:

Open ground and amongst low shrubs and fern in coastal situations and on offshore islands.

Features*:

Annual to perennial herb 0.4-1 m tall. Stem slender, base woody, usually branched at base or from upper half, dark green. Indumentum of 2-hooked, bristly hairs. Leaves yellow-green. Rosette leaves horizontal, petiolate, lamina 35-300 x 3-30 mm, narrowly ovate, oblanceolate to lanceolate, entire or deeply dentate; stem leaves similar, but fewer, horizontal to suberect, becoming smaller toward plant apex. Lower stem leaves 30-220 x 3-25 mm, upper 7-120 x 0.1-12 mm, terminal leaves bract or thread-like. Inflorescences in corymbose panicles. Capitula numerous, 9-16 mm long, 3-8 mm diam. Involucrum of 18-36 bracts in 2-3 irregular outer and 2 inner rows, at flowering inner bracts clearly longer than outer. Bracts usually with a single line of 2-hooked anchor or bifid hairs along midrib on outer surface. Capitula with 20-60 sulphur yellow flowers. Achenes 5-12.5 mm long, narrowly fusiform. Cuspis 1.2-7.4 mm long. Achene ribs 24-45. Pappus 5-10.5 mm long, pappus rays 45-70.

Flowering:

October - April

Fruiting:

October - May

Threats:

Unclear. Like *P. burbridgeae* this plant is likely to have declined through the spread of more aggressive exotic weeds into the open disturbed habitats it requires. However, we have no direct evidence of this, beyond its apparent loss from the Bay of Islands (where it was first collected in New Zealand). Other than that *P. angustifolia* subsp. *angustifolia* seems to be holding its own in the Whangaruru area where it is quite common on some small islands and rocky headlands. Its exact status on the Hen and Chicken Islands is unclear. Whether it is present on the Mokohinau Islands needs confirmation, its presence there is hinted at by the presence of hybrids between it and *P. burbridgeae*.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 November 2009). Description based on Holzapfel & Lack (1993) and fresh specimens.

References and further reading:

Holzapfel, S.; Lack, H. W. 1993: New species of *Picris* (Asteraceae, Lactuceae) from Australia. *Willdenowia* 23: 181-191.

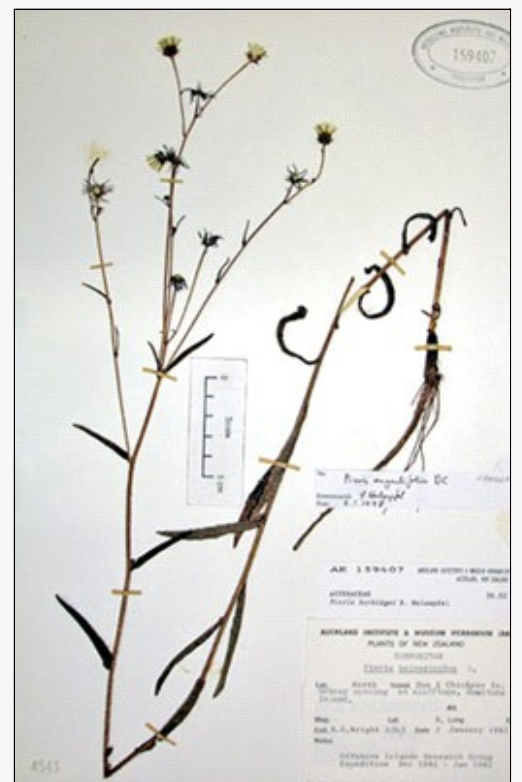
For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=718



Caption: Close up of Achenes.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: A flowering specimen

Photographer: Peter de Lange,
Herbarium specimen AK 159407.